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# TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,P 04,L 03,H 02,SAH 02,SAL 01,
INR 07,AID 30,RSR 01,/121 W

O 141435Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHEC IMMEDIATE 4599
INFO/ RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3792
CINCPAC
DANANG 724
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2164

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HELD WELL ATTENDED JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE AS SCHEDULED AFTERNOON AUGUST 14. THIEU AND KY DID NOT ATTEND NOR DID TRAN VAN HSONG AND MAI THO TRUYEN. HOWEVER, BOTH SLATES SENT REPRESENTATIVES.

2. CANDIDATES SAT AROUND HORSESHOE-SHAPED TABLE IN CONFERENCE HALL OF DIEN HONG PALACE. SLATES, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, CAME TO ROSTRUM IN ORDER OF POSTING WIH EACH SLATE ALLOWED TWENTY MINUTES TO EXPOSE VIEWS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

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AT OUTSET NGUYEN VAN NGAI, PRESIDING IN CAPACITY AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, INFORMED AUDIENCE THAT ONLY VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE COULD BE USED DURING CONFERENCE AND CANDIDATES NOT PERMITTED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM FOREIGN PRESS.

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3. FIRST TO COME TO ROSTRUM WERE PHAN KHAC SUU AND PHAN QUANG DAN, IN BRIEF OPENING REMARKS SUU SAID HE WAS RUNNING IN ORDERTO FULFILL HIS REVOLUTIONARY POLICY OF OPPOSING DICTATORSHIP AND BUILDING DEMOCRACY. DR. DAN SAID THAT IMPORTANT PART OF CAMPAIGN WAS DIRECT CONTACT WITH VOTERS. THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, IS NOT POLULARLY ELECTED BUT IT HAS MASSIVE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL. TO ASSURE FAIR ELECTION, THIEU AND KY OUGHT TO RESIGN THEIR GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS. DAN ALSO SAID HE HOPED THAT THIEU AND KY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN JOINT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER CADIDATES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE NOT USING MEANS OTHER THAN THOSE PRESCRIBED BY LAW TO PROMOTE THEIR CANDIDACIES. FOR THE RECORD, DAN CONCLUDED, THERE HAD ONLY BEEN 1,000 PEOPLE WAITING AT QUANG TRI ON AUGUST 6, NOT 10,000 AS ALLEGED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. AS FOR DA NANG ON AUGUST 11, THERE WERE ONLY 800 PEOPLE WAITING FOR THE CANDIDATES AND MOST OF THESE WERE CIVIL SERVANTS.

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4. IN ENSUING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD DR. DAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS MERELY INVITING THIEU AND KY TO CAMPAIGN WITH THE REST OF THE CANDIDATES. IF THEY REFUSED, DAN SAID, HIS LIST WOULD GO ON CAMPAIGNING ANYWAY. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, PHAN KHAC SUU ESCHEWED RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVENTS OF PERIOD IN 1964-65 WHEN HE WAS CHIEF OF STATE. SUU SAID HE HAD NO REAL POWER IN THAT POSITION.

5. HA THUC KY AND NGUYEN VAN DINH MADE NO STATEMENT AND IMMEDIATELY OPENED FLOOR TO QUESTIONS. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON SUBJECT OF PEACE, KY SAID THAT BLAME FOR CONTINUATION OF WAR RESTS PARTLY WITH NORTH VIET-NAM ITSELF ANDPARTLY WITH COMMUNIST BLOC. IF THE NORTH REJECTS PEACE THEN IT IS USELESS FOR THE SOUTH TO CALL FOR PEACE. THE SOUTH MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT IN ITS SELF-DEFENSE. COMMUNISTS DO NOT YET WANT PEACE, KY CONTINUED, BECAUSE THEY HOPE THAT CORRUPTION AND DICATORSHIP IN THE SOUTH WILL EVENTUALLY BRING VICTORY WITHIN COMMUNIST GRASH. THESE ILLS, SAID KY, MUST THEREFORE BE OVERCOME AND TRUE DEMOCRACY ESTABLISHED BEFORE LASTNG PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED.

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6. HA THUC KY WAS ALSO ASKED WHAT MEASURES HE WOULD TAKE TO CONTROL ARMY IF ELECTED. HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT CONCERNED BY PROBLEM AND FELT CERTAIN THAT THE ARMY WOULD BE PROPERLY

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RESPONSIVE TO A POPULALY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT.

7. KY WAS ALSO ASKED HOW HE WOULDCOPE WITH UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PRESENCE OF FOREIGN LABORERS IN VIET-NAM. KY POLITELY SUGGESTED THAT YUESTION BE DIRECTED AT GVN. IN FINALQUESTION. CORRESPONDENT ASKED KY IF RUMOR THAT HIS REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET PARTY FORCES PEOPLE TO JOIN IN IS TRUE. KY REPLIED THAT MEMBERSHIP IN HIS PARTY WAS VOLUNTARY.

8. HOANG CO BINH REITERATED HIS PLATFORM CALLING FOR REVISION OF CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM. BINH SAID HIS SLATE DOES NOT CONSIDER THIEU/KY SLATEQUALIFIED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, BINH SAID HE CONSIDERED THIEU/KY SLATE IN VIOLATION OF ELECTION LAW BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT RESIGNED GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS UPON FILING CANDIDACY. MOREOVER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAD VOTED 8 TO 4 AGAINST SLATE AND DECISION REVERSED ONLY AS RESULT OF GVN PRESSURE. BINH ALLEGED MANY SOLDIERS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES ATTENDED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION NIGHT OF ITS DECISION TO VALIDATE THIEU/KY SLATE.

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9. BINH FOLLOWED BY TRUONG DINH DZU, WHO AFTER BRIEF STATEMENT OPENED FLOOR TO QUESTIONS. ASKED FOR PROOF OF HIS CHARGE THAT GVN PLANNING TO RIG ELECTION, DZU SAID THAT RECENTLY TOH GVN LEADERS HAD MET WITH POLICE DIRECTORS FROM THE FOUR CORPS AREAS AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO ASSURE A THIEU/KY VICTORY. DZU ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD ALSO GIVEN MONEY AND MATERIALS TO NUMEROUS VILLAGE LEADERS IN EFFORT TO BUY VOTES.
'WHO'S MONEY IS THIS?" ASKED DZU RHETORICALLY, "IS IT NOT

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THE MONEY OF THE PEOPLE?"

10. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON SUBJECTOF PEACE, DZU SAID HE HOPED FOR AN HONORABLE, JUST, FREE AND LEGAL PEACE, COMMUNIST RULE IS UNACCEPTABLE. DZU WENT ON TO SUGOST THAT US ANNOUNCE THREE DAY BOMBING AUSE AND THAT NORTH VIET-NAM CEASE MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH. DZU ALSO PROPOSED A CONFERENCE BETWEEN HANOI, THE GVN, THE US AND THE LIBERATION FRONT.
IF ELECTED, HE WOULD ALSO CALL FOR A SECOND GENEVA CONFERENCE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN AND SOVIET UNION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION DIFFERENT NOW FROM 1954 "BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF ALLIED TROOPS AND FOREIGN MILITARY BASES."
(MORE) BUNKER

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ACTION FA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,P 04,L 03,H 02,SAH 02,SAL 01,
INR 07,AID 30,RSR 01,/121 W

O 141435Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4600
INFO/RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3793
CINCPAC
DANANG 725
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2165

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

11. ASKED ABOUT NEW BUDDHIST SHARTER, DZU SAID PROMULGATION BY THIEU ILLEGAL AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL. BESIDES, HE ADDED, CHARTER DRAFTED BY GROUP UNREPRESENTATIVE OF BUDDHIST MASSES.

12. PROFESSOR NGUYEN NGOC AN, REPRESENTING EEATE OF TRAN VAN HUONG, TOLD NEWMEN THAT HUONG AND TRUYEN UNABLE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE BECAUSE THEY WERE PLANNING PRESS CONFERENCE OF THEIR OWN AUGUST 15. AN SAID HE HAD NO REMARKS FOR THE PRESS.

13. PHAM HUY CO REITERATED HIS PLATFORM OF PEACE THROUGH VICTORY AND CREATION OF A NEW SOCIAL ORDER. CO ONLY FIELDED ONE QUESTION.

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14. TRAN VAN LY TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE PROGRAM OF HIS LATE. ASKED WHAT HE HAD DONE TO HELP THE PEOPLE WHEN GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL VIET-NAM, LY REPLIED THAT HE HAD DONE MUCH TO PROTECT

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AND SUPPPLY THE PEOPLE UPON RETURN OF THE FRENCH IN 1946.

15. CANDIDATE NGUUEN HOA HIEP MADE NO STATEMENT. ASKED WHAT HAD COMPELLED HIM TO RUN. HIEP REPLIED HE THOUGH IT HIS DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TO SALVATION OF THE COUNTRY. ASKED WHY HIS SLATE ADVERTISED IN THE ENGLISH-LANAGUAGE PRESS, HIEP SAID THIS WAS WORK OF SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND HE PERSONALLY DISAPPROVED OF IDEA. FINALLY, HIEP ASKED WHY TWO LISTS OF VIET-NAM NATIONALIST PARTY (VNQDD) IN RACE (VU HONG KHANH IS ALSO VNQDD). HIEP ANSWERED THAT HIS IS SOUTHERN FACTION OF PARTY, KHANH'S IS NORTHERN FACTION, "BUT OUR OBJECTIVES ARE THE SAME."

16. NGUYEN VAN LOC APOLOGIZED FOR ABSENCE OF THIEU AND KY. HE SAID THIEU WAS TIED DOWN WITH OTHER BUSINESS AND KY WAS IN HUE. LOC SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO THE MANY WORDS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN SPOKEN WITH REGARD TO PROGRAM AND PLATFORM OF THIEU AND KY.

17. VU HONG KHANH AND HUYNH CONG DUONG BOTH MADE BRIEF STATEMENTS

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EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE FAIR. DUONG CRITICIZED THIEU AND KY FOR MAKING NUMEROUS VISITS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE INDEPENDENTLY OF OTHER CANDIDATES AND ACCUSED THEM OF USING GVN RESOURCES TO CAMPAIGN. IF SITUATION CONTINUES, SAID DUONG, "VNQDD WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ATTITUDE."

18. LAST CANDIDATE TO SPEAK WAS NGUYEN DINH QUAT. READING FROM PREPARED STATEMENT, QUAT SAID HE HAD NOT WANTED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY BUT DID SO AT URGING OF MANY FRIEDS. AFTER STATEMENT QUAT DISTRIBUTED CAMPAIGN FOLDER CONTAINING PROGRAM, PLATFORM, AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF HIMSELF AND FUNNING MATE. CORRESPONDENT FROM TU DO ASKED QUAT WHAT HE WOULD DO DO TO COPE WITH PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION AND GAMBLING IN SAIGON. QUAT REPLIED THAT HE WOULD FIGHT TO REDUCE BOTH. QUAT WENT ON TO LABEL AS BASELESS REPORTS THAT HE IS AN EXPERT GAMBLER. (END)
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